

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 12-15, 18-21, 26-27, 32-33, 38-39, 44-51 and 52-53 are pending in this application. Claims 3-11, 16-17, 22-25, 28-31, 34-37, and 40-43 were previously canceled. By this Amendment, claims 1, 18-21, and 50-51 are amended, and claims 52-53 are added. Claims 1, 18-21, and 52 are the independent claims.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the interview conducted on December 7, 2010. During the interview, Applicants discussed the claimed invention and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). In particular, Applicants discussed proposed amendments to claim 1 in view of the Kato, Ando, Moon, and Mori references. Because the Examiner agreed that none of the cited references suggest the proposed amendments to claim 1, Applicants have amended all of the independent claims to reflect the proposed amendments discussed during the interview.

For example, claim 1 requires “wherein the at least one still picture and associated graphic data in the still picture unit is reproduced synchronously **based on the at least one playitem**”, “wherein the audio data is reproduced independently from the at least one still picture unit **based on the at least one sub-playitem**”, and “wherein the stream files, the playlist file, and the clip information files are separate from each other and have different file extensions.” For example, the Examiner was persuaded that Moon, Ando and Mori do not perform synchronous or independent reproduction based on the **playitem** and **sub-playitem**. For example, the Examiner acknowledged that the older DVD art of Ando, Moon, and Mori do not illustrate a **playitem** or **sub-playitem** within the meaning of the claimed invention. Also, in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion, Applicants have added the limitation

"wherein the stream files, the playlist file, and the clip information files are separate from each other and have different file extensions" as a means to further differentiate the older DVD art of Moon, Ando and Mori. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In addition, Applicants have added new claims 52-53. Independent claim 52 contains features similar to the above-identified features of claim 1, and therefore is allowable over the cited references for the same reasons stated above.

Applicants understand that the above-identified amendments require a further search and/or consideration. As such, Applicants have filed this Amendment along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to ensure its consideration. If anything should prevent this application from proceeding to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call Jared Scholz at 703-668-8006.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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